



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

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Final Rule Implements Secretarial Amendment 1 Establishing a Rebuilding Plan for Red Grouper Small Entity Compliance Guide

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) has published a final rule in the *Federal Register* implementing the approved regulatory actions in Secretarial Amendment 1 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico (FMP). The FMP was developed by NOAA Fisheries in cooperation with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. The intended effect of this final rule is to end overfishing and rebuild the red grouper resource. The final rule is effective July 15, 2004.

The final rule will:

- (1) Establish a red grouper commercial quota of 5.31 million pounds (MP), gutted weight (GW).
- (2) Establish a shallow-water grouper commercial quota of 8.80 MP, GW.
- (3) Include a provision that would close the entire shallow-water grouper commercial fishery when either the red grouper quota or the shallow-water grouper quota is reached.
- (4) Establish a deep-water grouper commercial quota of 1.02 MP, GW.
- (5) Establish a commercial quota of 0.44 MP, GW, for all tilefishes in the management unit, combined.
- (6) Establish a 2-fish red grouper recreational bag limit (within the aggregate 5-fish grouper bag limit).

NOAA Fisheries prepared a Regulatory Impact Review (RIR) and a Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (FRFA) that augments the findings of the FMP's RIR. The FRFA is available from the Fisheries Economics Office, NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702.

Written copies of the final rule may be obtained from the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702.

Electronic copies of the final rule may be obtained from the *Federal Register* website at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>.

This Small Entity Compliance Guide complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996. Any discrepancies between this document and the rule as published in the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.

Additional Quota Monitoring Information

The Southeast Fisheries Science Center has provided the following preliminary landings estimates for the Gulf grouper commercial fishery for the period January 1, 2004, through April 30, 2004. All landings are in pounds gutted weight.

Shallow-water grouper landings for January through April 2004.

Month	Pounds
Jan	1,121,968
Feb	599,447
Mar	397,159
Apr	883,267
Total	3,001,841

Deep-water grouper landings for January through April 2004.

Month	Pounds
Jan	142,563
Feb	173,890
Mar	262,736
Apr	210,106
Total	789,295

Red grouper landings for January through April 2004.

This and other news releases are available on the Southeast Regional Office homepage at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>. NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Department of Commerce.

Month	Pounds
Jan	674,676
Feb	412,974
Mar	215,587
Apr	524,562
Total	1,827,799



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